

SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE COMMUNITY

by the Martinez Historical Society

The [Martinez Historical Society](#) is managed by a 15 member [Board of Directors](#). The Society operates these facilities:

- The Martinez Museum.
- The Local History Library (published materials).
- The City Archive of historic photographs & other unpublished source documents (unpublished materials).

The Society receives no government funds, but its all-volunteer staff are able to provide these services to the community:

- Permanent Exhibits at the [Martinez Museum](#) (located in the Borland House). There is no charge for admission.
- Current exhibits at the Martinez Museum. These exhibits are typically changed several times a year. The new exhibits are kicked off with an Open House for visitors. Currently, there are two simultaneous exhibits:
 - “Look What We Found” features artifacts donated by various Martinez families over the years.
 - Doran Lamb's collection of Martinez business signs, street signs, and automotive memorabilia.
- Special tours of the Museum for out-of-town visitors, groups, clubs and VIP's.
- Age-appropriate tours of the Museum for all 3rd graders in the Martinez School District.
- Scholarships for high school students who plan to major in history when in college.
- Sponsorship of the Teacher of the Year award issued each year by the Chamber of Commerce.
- Advice to citizens on how to utilize the [Museum archives](#) to research their family history, the history of their house, the history of their business, or the history of Martinez.
- Assistance to citizens researching the Museum's collection of thousands of historic photographs.
- An extensive [website](#) which receives nearly 200 hits/day and which is used as a resource by local schools – especially prior to field trips by the children to the Museum, the Cemetery and our historic downtown.
- A guided [Downtown Walking Tours](#) of historic Martinez.
- Also a self-guided walking tour brochure -- published by the Society and made available to visitors at the Martinez Tourist Bureau and City Hall. And also at other locations.
- A [Martinez Cemetery Walking Tour](#) brochure – published by the Society with input from the Cemetery Commission -- for use by the public.
- Lectures or multi-media presentations at the Society's public meetings (minimum 4 meetings / year).
- The Martinez History Lecture Series at the Senior Center. The following are sample lecture topics:
 - “Riding the Rails” by Richard Patchin, accompanied by the band “Joyful Noise”
 - “The Italians of Martinez” by Angelo Costanza
 - “Celebrate and Commemorate the Martinez Canteen” by Barbara Hannafan
- A monthly brown bag lunch and round table discussion of history for up to 25 people at the Martinez Museum
- Historic markers (bronze plaques) on [notable buildings](#) and [historic sites](#). Plaquing is coordinated with over 20 property owners, the City or [E. Clampus Vitus](#), and occurs at an onsite ceremony with the mayor in attendance.
- [Publishing projects](#). Recent books published are as follows:
 - *Images of America: Martinez* -- a pictorial history of the City
 - *The Borland Home: a History of the House & Guide to the Museum*
 - *Martinez: A Handbook of Houses & History* 2nd Edition
 - *To All Enquiring Friends: Nantucketers in Martinez and San Francisco*
- A bi-monthly newsletter. The newsletter publicizes current programs, exhibits and special events. It also features several well-researched and professionally written articles on Martinez history in each issue.
- The [Oral History Project](#). Both video and audio tape are used to capture first-hand accounts of local history by the City's old timers with the help of volunteers from five other groups: Alhambra Creek Restoration & Environmental Educational Collaborative (ACREEC), Alhambra Valley Creek Coalition, Friends of Alhambra Creek (FOACO), Muir Heritage Land Trust and Environmental Studies Academy (ESA).
- Crab Feed -- with prizes designed to raise awareness of local merchants & the Martinez Arts Association.
- Holiday Open House to enable the public to view the Christmas decorations at the Martinez Museum.
- [Holiday Frolic](#). The Museum becomes a “gingerbread house” where young children do crafts and learn history.
- [Mini Motorland](#) -- where children operate miniature vehicles, stop at a miniature museum and both see and handle historic artifacts. The event is sponsored by the City of Martinez Recreation Department.
- [Historic Home Tour](#). The tour showcases notable [historic homes in Martinez](#) and provides the public with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to enjoy the interior of these architectural gems. The [John Muir Association](#), the National Park Services, the Willows Theatre (period costumes), and sponsors such as [Shell](#) all assist.
- Research, planning & fund-raising support to the City of Martinez and PRMCC for the [Old Train Depot project](#).
- Survey of Martinez businesses over the last 6 decades. This is a large joint project with Central San.
- A project in process is creating a new display board for the Brown Mausoleum at the [Martinez Cemetery](#).
- An upcoming project is working with City staff to create displays of Martinez history to exhibit at City Hall.